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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>This study is based on and contributes to the multidisciplinary debate of the extractive reserves as a method of sustainable development of the Brazilian Amazonia. It is a case study of a rubber tappers’ cooperative that aims to improve the livelihoods of the residents of an extractive reserve through the promotion of wild rubber production in the northern state of Pará. By looking at the difficulties the cooperative was facing the challenges for the sustainability of the extractive reserves and wild rubber production in general are explored. The objective is to know what are the possibilities of wild rubber extraction as a livelihood strategy. The research topic is explored from a historical perspective, taking into account the political and market dynamics that have affected the social logics of the groups in question. The theoretical framework is multidisciplinary, mainly drawing from the tradition of peasant economics. The research is based on the fieldwork conducted in the extractive reserve of Tapajós-Arapiuns and the city of Santarém, consisting of participant observation, interviews, and acquiring documents about the cooperative and the extractive reserve.</p> <p>On the basis of my study I argue that the model of the extractive reserve should take into consideration the varying realities of the different parts of Amazonia. Wild rubber production has income-generating potential as the global market prices are rising, although wild rubber suffers from a disadvantaged market position typical to extractive economies. In order for a cooperative to be able to strengthen the livelihoods of the members it has to be able to function as a business. Increasing production is a political process, challenged by the fact that the producer price is not considered sufficient by the rubber tappers. Rubber production has a special history in the region and is not attributed with such cultural or social values as manioc, another cash crop, also the staple of the diet.</p>			
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